

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections and rejection set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 2-10 are now pending in the application, with Claims 2 and 5 being independent. Claim 1 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 2, 5, 9 and 10 have been amended herein.

The drawings were objected to for not including the following reference signs mentioned in the specification: Y (page 8, line 22), X (page 8, line 24) and 207 (page 15, line 2, etc.). Applicants have amended the specification by deleting direction characters “Y” and “X” at page 8. Applicants have also amended “297” to --207-- in Figure 1 in the accompanying Letter Transmitting Corrected Formal Drawings. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

The drawings were also objected to for including the following reference characters not mentioned in the specification: 297 (Figure 1) and S513 (Figure 5). Applicants have amended Figure 1 as discussed above. Regarding Step S513, Applicants have amended the specification in the paragraph beginning at page 33, line 12 to include a discussion thereof. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

The title was objected to as not being descriptive and the abstract of the disclosure was objected to as exceeding 150 words. The title and abstract have been amended as requested by the Examiner. Favorable consideration is requested.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication that Claims 2-9 recite allowable subject matter. Claims 2 and 5 have been rewritten in independent form so as to be in condition for allowance. Minor changes have been made to the claims to improve their form. Such changes have not been made for any reasons related to patentability and are not believed to effect allowability.

Claims 1 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102. Claim 1 has been cancelled, and remaining Claims 2-10 are seen to be in condition for allowance for the reasons noted above. The foregoing actions have been taken without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and without conceding correctness of the rejections, but rather strictly to obtain an earlier allowance and to expedite issuance.

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the objections and rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowability are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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